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Assassination of Arab Official Attempted in Nicosia
LD031045 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Nicosia, May 3 (KUNA) — Arab Journalists Union Secretary General Hanna Muqbil was seriously injured in an assassination attempt here Thursday morning.

Muqbil's 28-year old secretary was also injured in the incident in a Nicosia street, Palestinian sources told KUNA.

The sources said that Muqbil, a Palestinian who carries a Lebanese passport, and the secretary were on their way to work at 6:40 am local time (4:40 GMT) [KUNA note] when an unidentified gunman opened fire on them.

Five bullets hit the Palestinian journalist and a further two struck his secretary, the sources said.

Cypriot police have made no arrests, but said they believed the gunman was "Middle Eastern," and acting alone. The two were taken to Nicosia General Hospital, where Muqbil's condition was described as "serious," while his secretary, Raymonda Farran, was said to be better after emergency surgery.

A Palestinian spokesman in Cyprus denounced the assassination attempt and accused Israel of responsibility.

The deputy PLO representative in Cyprus Milad 'Abduh told KUNA that there was reason to believe that Israel intelligence agents were behind the attack on Muqbil, who runs a news agency based here which concentrates on the question of Palestine.

In a press statement released later in the day, the PLO office denounced "the devious terrorist methods used by the Zionist intelligence agents and death squads."

Such methods, the statement said, "reflect (the Zionists') [KUNA note] bankruptcy in facing the logic of justice rights of the Palestinian people."

Affirming that the PLO would "not allow these terror squads to pass unpunished," the statement expressed confidence in the Cypriot authorities' intention "to pursue the murderers and expose them and their backers to public opinion."

'Arafat AL-AHRAM Statement Discuses Egyptian Role
NC022230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed there is no alternative for the Arab nation at this time other than to act immediately and through all means reinstate Egypt to the leading role from which it has strayed. He has also affirmed Egypt's return to the Arab nation would rectify the course and restore the balance that has been upset.

In an exclusive statement to the Cairo newspaper *AL-AHRAM*, to be published Thrusday, 'Arafat said the courageous and responsible stands taken by President Husni Mubarak have proved to all that Egypt is committed to the [Arab] nation's causes. In this connection, he referred to Egypt's protection of the Palestinians following their departure from Tripoli and to the stand declared by President Mubarak in the White House calling for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and his recent decision to sever diplomatic relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica.

'Arafat explained that since Egypt's absence from the Arab world, much has happened in the Arab world, and it is high time Egypt reoccupied its leading role in the Arab nation. He affirmed the Palestinian revolution would no longer allow any force to obstruct Egypt's return to the Arab arena.

In his interview with *AL-AHRAM*, Yasir 'Arafat comments on current events in Lebanon, saying that a plan to balkanize the region is being implemented. He said there is a plan to divide Lebanon into sectarian entities. 'Arafat described what is going on there as a U.S.-Israeli plot approved by certain Arab quarters.

'Arafat said: I bless the abrogation of the 17 May accord between Lebanon and Israel. However, it is my right to ask what the significance is behind the abrogation of the accord when the Maronite front opened offices in Jerusalem and when there is an Israeli office in B'abda in Beirut.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, Yasir 'Arafat said: Despite the dagger hanging in my back, I extend my hands on behalf of my [Palestinian] brothers to our Syrian brothers to restore the relations between the two sides on the basis of the independent Palestinian decision which we will never sell to any regime. He pointed out there is Arab and Soviet mediation to restore the relations between Syria and the PLO.

Regarding the PNC meetings, Yasir 'Arafat said: The dialogue commitee will meet again in Algiers on 9 May to prepare for those meetings we hope will convene no later than 25 May.

He added that following the failure of the dissidents and the rebellion, and the failure of the military liquidation and political assassination of the PLO, certain persons are trying to destroy the Palestinian legitimacy. He said the organizations with which we are now conducting a dialogue fall into two categories: The first conscientiously fought with us in defense of an independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and the second supports an independent Palestinian decisionmaking but did not defend this with its blood. We are conducting a democratic dialogue with them; the agents and mercenaries have no place among us.

Reacting to a question about the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile, 'Arafat pointed out that one day the Palestinian revolution will establish a government, not a government-in-exile, but a provisional government. However, the present circumstances are not yet suitable for this.

In his statement to *AL-AHRAM*, 'Arafat said: We ask much from Egypt. Palestine is an Egyptian issue as much as it is a Palestinian one. Egypt has given 88,000 martyrs from 1948 to the present. In other words, every Egyptian village has given over 22 martyrs for the Palestinian cause.

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4 MAY 1984

Lebanon

Arrested Israelis — The three Israelis captured by Syrian forces in northern Lebanon are part of a "terrorist" network established by the Israeli Liaison Office near Beirut, and although Israel denies that they were on a terrorist mission, "they themselves have confessed what they planned to carry out," Damascus radio announced. Since Israel has no diplomatic relations with Lebanon and every Israeli in Lebanon is a member of the occupation forces, members of the Liaison Office are "subject to pursuit" like all other soldiers there, the radio said. It also viewed U.S. actions to secure the Israelis' release as "proof" of a secret U.S.-Israeli agreement to use "terrorists" against Syria as a prelude to a "powerful military operation" for which Israel has already completed preparations. In a related report by Radio Monte Carlo, Syrian sources dismissed as "ridiculous" the claim that the Israelis were on a "picnic," asserting that the men were carrying military hardware, radio equipment, and maps, and had exchanged fire with the Syrians before surrendering to them.

Political Situation — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, speaking at a news conference reported by Beirut radio, confirmed his refusal to participate in Prime Minister Rashid Karami's cabinet unless a "reconstruction" ministry for the south is established. Birri said he had been "surprised" by Karami's announcement of a 10-man cabinet, as it contradicts the Syrian-Lebanese agreement to form a larger government with a "nationalist" majority.

Karami subsequently asserted that he "cannot possibly disagree" with Birri, adding that the government is interested in the problem of the south and is holding contacts to solve the cabinet crisis, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, speaking at a news conference in Jordan reported by Amman radio, described his meeting with King Husayn as "successful and positive," adding that their talks dealt with developments in the occupied Arab territories and further steps toward joint coordination, including moves in the international arena. The resumption of the 'Arafat-Husayn talks indicates that their dialogue is "serious" and could lead to a "joint move," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said. In a joint statement reported by the radio, the two sides condemned attempts to transfer embassies to Jerusalem and praised Egypt's stand on this issue. During his visit to Amman, 'Arafat also announced that the Jordanian authorities had agreed to release 46 imprisoned Palestinians, INA noted.

In another development, a PLO statement carried by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio blamed "Zionist intelligence agents" for the assassination of Palestinian journalist Hanna Muqbil in Nicosia on 3 May. The PLO will not allow these "murder gangs" to go unpunished, the statement warned. Yasir 'Arafat, on the other hand, claimed that the principal party responsible is based in Damascus, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The Fatah dissidents issued a statement in Damascus accusing 'Arafat of ordering Muqbil's assassination, the radio disclosed.

Israel

The security forces have obtained written confessions from suspects held in connection with the recent attempt to sabotage Arab buses and with earlier attacks on the Islamic college and mosques in Hebron, Jerusalem radio reported. Two brothers from Qiryat Arba' were the key figures in all these cases, the radio said.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn, during his recent meeting with Kuwaiti editors, said Iraq will intensify its siege of Khark Island, which will be targeted by Iraqi forces if such action is in the national and pan-Arab interest, KUNA reported. The Iraqi leader also warned Gulf states, in particular Kuwait and Bahrain, to "be wary of the foreign element," advising them to expel anyone who "casts his eye beyond his border." Iraq does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of the Gulf states, he said, but if "something happened" in Kuwait, the Iraqi leaders should not stand idly by. Regarding Arab-Egyptian relations, he said it is a mistake for both sides to remain "distant" from each other, adding that Egypt should resume its Arab League membership though diplomatic relations with it should remain suspended for "practical and psychological" reasons. Asked why his brother Barazan was recently dismissed from his post as chief of Iraq's security forces, the president said Barazan was not a plotter but was "no good for the responsibility of this post."

Libya

Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki sent messages to the UN Security Council, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League, and the OAU, warning of the U.S. Administration's "flagrant threats" against Libya, Tripoli radio reported. Asserting that the call for an economic and political boycott of Libya reveals the gravity of U.S. plans for aggression against the Jamahiriyah, the Libyan memorandum said this policy will have "destructive effects" on world peace and security unless international bodies take a common position against such threats.

Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus disclosed that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will arrive in the Syrian capital next week for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, KUNA reported.

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Libya

Shooting in Tripoli — "Heavy shooting" broke out 8 May around Al-Aliziyah barracks, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters, according to a diplomatic source in Tripoli cited by AFP. A 15-man commando group attacked the barracks, the agency said. According to BBC, it is not known if the shooting was linked to an attempt against the Libyan leader.

Dispute With UK — Britain's "frenzied campaign" of police harassment, arrests, and "savage torture and terror" on "direct orders" from the prime minister "will not pass peacefully," the Libyan newspaper *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warned according to JANA. The paper announced that arrests of Libyan students and tourists and false accusations against them in British courts will prompt the revolutionary committees to "engage in a violent backlash" against British citizens residing in Libya, JANA reported.

Meanwhile, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio claimed that members of the "terrorist group" that carried out the "criminal action" against the Libyan People's Bureau in London, which is "protected and managed" by the British Government, were apprehended trying to enter Libya from Tunisia. The group intended to carry out assassinations and sabotage in Libya, the radio alleged.

Lebanon

Political Situation — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri will be appointed minister of state for the affairs of the south and reconstruction in addition to his other ministerial posts, Prime Minister Rashid Karami confirmed in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Birri noted that his conditions for joining the Cabinet have now been met and stressed the need for a "jihad" to liberate the south, unite and reconstruct the country, and achieve "justice," the radio reported. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt agreed to join the Cabinet and, although former President Sulayman Franjiyah maintained his critical stand on the Cabinet issue, he will not place any "burden" on the national unity government, the radio said. Birri and Junblatt were encouraged to participate in the government because the whole Cabinet is to function as the Higher Defense Council, according to opposition sources cited by the radio.

Security/Military Situation — As militiamen in West Beirut fired into the air to celebrate Birri's appointment, Phalangist artillery positions in East Beirut opened fire at the western sector "in an attempt to exploit and torpedo the situation," Beirut radio asserted. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian artillery south of Al-Batrun fired at an Israeli gunboat offshore. The vessel was not hit and returned the fire, the radio said. Damascus radio did not confirm the firing but reported Israeli naval movements off the Lebanese coast, describing them as part of the "acts of provocation" by the Israeli invasion forces.

Syria on Radar Station — Noting reports that an Israeli-U.S. team has established a radar station south of Jazzin linked to a NATO ship patrolling the Lebanese coast, an *AL-BA'TH* editorial reviewed by Damascus radio urged the Arabs to take a "serious" view of this project, which could turn the Israeli plan into an "American network enjoying all the advantages of modern U.S. technology." Syria will not allow such hostile activities on Lebanese soil to become a "fait accompli," the paper added.

Israel

Shamir Interview — Israel has no additional military goals in Lebanon and is not interested in remaining there, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio. He reaffirmed that Israel will be able to withdraw the IDF after it has made arrangements that guarantee "Galilee's" security against terrorist attacks.

TNT Threat to Austria — The Israeli Terror Against Terror (TNT) organization has written journalists in Vienna demanding that Austrian authorities halt their "anti-Israel" policy and warning that TNT will have no pity for "pro-Arab circles" in the Austrian leadership, Jerusalem radio reported. The letter accused former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of betraying the Jews.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes struck "two large naval targets" believed to have been carrying oil from Khark Island, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced, citing a military spokesman. Radio Monte Carlo quoted reports from London that the Saudi oil tanker *Uhud* "was hit by a missile" when the ship was 80 miles from Khark.

PLO Affairs

Jordanian-Palestinian Talks — Jordanian-Palestinian talks have reached the "point of agreement and coordination" and have "come close" to a "confederation project," the Jordanian newspaper *AD-DUSTUR* claimed. A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has been formed to tour Arab and Islamic states to inform them of the results of the talks, the paper added.

PLO Operations — The PLO will escalate its military operations against the Israeli forces in the occupied territories in the "coming few days," PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir disclosed according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Al-Wazir said Fatah is planning "painful blows" against the enemy.

Algiers Meetings — Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf arrived in Algeria for consultations with the PFLP and the DFLP, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Khalaf and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah were received by President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio announced.

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MAY 1984

Lebanon

Cabinet Meeting — President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired the first Cabinet session at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya on 10 May, Beirut radio announced. Interior Minister 'Abdallah ar-Rasi was not present. Speaking to newsmen after the morning session, Prime Minister Rashid Karami indicated that there were no problems and that discussions were "very positive," the radio reported. In a statement broadcast by the radio following the afternoon session, Karami reported that the Cabinet dealt with all aspects of the Lebanese crisis and indicated that a number of decisions had been made, including the appointment of Joseph Skaff as acting minister of information, approving the "jurisdiction" of Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon affairs and reconstruction, and the formation of a committee to prepare the government statement.

Military/Security Situation — Israeli gunboats opened fire in the direction of Ad-Damur, Al-Mushrif, and Radio Orient, Beirut radio reported. In a separate development, Ihdin radio claimed that Israeli forces in western Al-Biqa' were observed digging trenches and bringing in "iron bridges."

Libya

Reaction to Tripoli Attack — "Angry" demonstrations were held in most Libyan cities calling for the execution of the "terrorists" "trained in Britain, America, and Sudan" who were involved in the attack on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's residence in Tripoli and calling for pursuit and "elimination" of those responsible "wherever they exist," Tripoli radio announced. The demonstrators also called for the overthrow of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's regime and expressed readiness to carry out the "death order" against it.

Demonstrators in Banghazi proclaimed the death sentence for all "terrorist traitors" as well as those who cooperate with them, and stated that the "sons of the Libyan Arab People" would be turned into "suicide squads" to "liquidate" the enemies of the revolution anywhere they went in the world, according to a further Tripoli report. The demonstrators warned "reactionary Arab regimes" which harbor the "stray dogs" that they will not "escape punishment." They stated that the United States and Britain were guilty of protecting the perpetrators and pledged to destroy the two countries' interests in the Arab homeland and to support liberation movements that oppose them.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison cited "confessions and evidence" proving that Tunisian territory had been used for anti-Libyan "terrorist activity" and warned of the "grave danger" to which relations might be exposed, according to a statement issued by the Bureau and carried by JANA.

In a related report, a "responsible source" in the Sudanese Foreign Ministry denied Libyan claims of involvement in the recent attack, characterizing them as an attempt to divert attention from the rising domestic opposition to the Libyan regime, SUNA disclosed. A spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya denied receiving training in Sudan or Britain, claiming that the front was based in Libya, according to Omdurman radio. He also threatened more attacks on Al-Qadhdhafi.

Velayati Visit — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Tripoli bearing a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to Al-Qadhdhafi, Tehran radio announced. He was greeted by Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki. In a statement following his arrival, Velayati indicated that the purpose of his visit was to stress Iran's "absolute support" for Libya in its fight against the "hostile plots" of "imperialism and Zionism," Tripoli radio reported.

Syria

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Damascus for a "cordial" visit, Damascus radio announced. Ceausescu held talks on bilateral relations with President al-Asad and Syrian officials at the guest palace, Damascus television reported.

Iran-Iraq War

"Chemical Gas" Attack — Iraq used "chemical gas" in the Majnun region on 8 May, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Khark "Siege" — Iraq's "siege" of Khark Island has proved "highly effective," INA asserted. An "oil source" close to OPEC cited by the agency claimed that shipping firms were reluctant to send their tankers to the region and that Iranian oil exports had declined in a "tangible way" as a result.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Delegation to USSR — A Fatah Central Committee delegation will visit the Soviet Union on 16 May, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated in remarks reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio.

Fatah-Syrian Reconciliation — A joint Algerian-PDRY delegation will begin contacts with the Syrian leadership and the Fatah Central Committee in "the next few days" to resolve differences between the two sides, KUNA disclosed, citing a spokesman for the PFLP-DFLP Joint Command.

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'Arafat Makes Kuwait Stopover, Reviews PRC Visit

LD101407 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 May 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat made a stopover in Kuwait today before continuing his journey to Athens and then to Tunis. 'Arafat arrived from Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he paid a brief visit, during which he conducted talks with the chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Mohammad Hussain Ershad, and with UAE President Zayid ibn Shaykh al Nahayyan. 'Arafat described the results of his visits to Beijing, Pyongyang,and Dhaka as successful, particularly the 3-day talks he held with Chinese leaders. He said that all Arab and international issues were reviewed at this meeting and that the Chinese leadership, as always, asserted its firm and constant stance toward the just Palestinian question and the PLO. 'Arafat said that the Chinese leadership briefed him on the results of talks held between the leadership and American President Reagan connected with the Palestinian question and with the Chinese stance, which was conveyed to Reagan with regard to the Palestinian question and the PLO.

He said that the talks also covered a number of important issues, including the Iraqi-Iranian war, in view of its threat not just to the Gulf region, but also to all Third World countries. He explained that Palestinian-Chinese bilateral issues were also discussed.

As to the possibility of holding Palestinian contacts with the new Lebanese Government, 'Arafat said that such contacts will take place at the appropriate time, particularly because the Palestinians are experiencing difficult conditions under the abnormal laws which were enacted after our departure from Beirut and under the conditions of what is taking place against the Palestinians and are being harassed with regard to all things affecting their lives. He pointed out that the PLO office in Beirut is still open, but its activity has been affected because of the events, just like the scores of embassies in the capital.

Replying to another question about the likelihood of convening the PNC — parliament in exile — and the calls for postponing it, he said there is a desire to convene the Council at the end of this month, as is known. It would be accompanied by a popular conference that would include various functionaries, representatives of the Palestinian people, popular organizations, and representatives of Palestinian communities wherever they are.

'Arafat said we are about to contact our Algerian brothers inregard to the popular conference and inquire about the technical resources needed to receive such a large number of people, in addition to PNC members. 'Arafat asserted that there is no disagreement between the detachments of the Palestinian resistance, but added: "He who raises a weapon against his own people has no place in the revolution and has been rejected by our people. They will not forgive him." Replying to a question on a Palestinian Arab coordination with Egypt, in regard to its recent plan to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, he said one of the points on the agenda of the Islamic Good Offices Committee was the Egyptian plan and the replies received in this connection from the parties concerned. 'Arafat has continued his journey to the Greek capital.

'Arafat Talks With Bangladesh President

JN101759 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 10 May 84

[Excerpts] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has held a round of talks with Bangladesh President General Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The talks dealt with issues of mutual concern on both the Arab and international levels, as well as the latest developments in the Palestinian question. Abu 'Ammar arrived in Bangladesh yesterday on an official visit at the invitation of the Bangladesh president. Following Abu 'Ammar's arrival, the Bangladesh foreign minister visited him and his delegation at the Guest Palace. During the meeting, they exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual concern. The Bangladesh foreign minister expressed his country's unlimited support for the Palestinian people's just struggle under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

Later, Abu 'Ammar attended a graduation ceremony for a group from the Bangladesh Armed Forces. He was very warmly received at the ceremony. During this ceremony, the general military governor of Dhaka delivered a speech welcoming Brother Abu 'Ammar. He expressed the Bangladesh people's firm stands in support of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Abu 'Ammar made a speech in which he affirmed the cohesion between the Palestinian and Bangladesh peoples that has been baptized with blood. He emphasized that the war is long and that more blood is required in order to liberate Jerusalem. He reviewed the battles which the Palestinian revolution waged in defense of Isalmic holy shrines and in defense of the honor of both the Arab and Islamic nations. He thanked the Bangladesh people, government, and president for supporting the Palestinian people's struggle. At the end of the ceremony, Abu 'Ammar was bade farewell with the same warmth with which he was received.

'Arafat Arrives in Athens for PASOK Congress

NC101829 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1800 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived a short while ago in Athens on a special flight. He will attend and address the PASOK congress. The Palestinian leader was received at Ellinikon Airport by Alternate Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, Public Order Minister Ioannis Skoularikis, and Arab ambassadors in Athens.

Romania's Ceausescu Confers With PNC Speaker

JN111154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] A meeting was held this morning between Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum in the presence of Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei. The two sides reviewed the situation in the Palestinian arena and the Middle East. President Ceausescu emphasized Romania's support for the PLO and its great concern for its unity. He also stressed his country's support for the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their rights, foremost being their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 MAY 1984

Gulf Shipping Crisis

GCC foreign ministers began an emergency meeting in Riyadh 17 May to discuss developments in the Gulf, SPA announced. Earlier, Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan stressed that GCC officials are working on a military strategy for the defense of their countries, Kuwait radio reported. A Saudi Information Ministry source cited by SPA reacted to the "very strange and regrettable" attack on a Saudi tanker near Ra's Tannurah by emphasizing that the Kingdom denounces the repeated aerial assaults on Gulf tankers and is determined to end "such infringements of international law" in cooperation with the other GCC states. A Saudi ports official disclosed that the attack took place 60 miles northeast of Ra's Tannurah, causing a fire in the ship's fuel tanks which was extinguished with assistance from Saudi authorities, according to the agency.

In further reaction to recent attacks on Kuwaiti shipping, the director of legal administration at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry affirmed that Kuwait may seek UN assistance to protect its rights by invoking Article 34 of the UN Charter, which gives the Security Council the right to intervene in a grave situation, KUNA reported.

The attacks on tankers have brought shipping in the northern Gulf to a virtual standstill, according to the *GULF DAILY NEWS*, and some 22 supertankers are currently waiting outside the Strait of Hormuz because their owners are unwilling to order their crews into the war zone. The paper said Iran's main oil terminal at Khark Island has been "virtually sealed off" by the major shipowners, and British maritime circles cited by INA likewise revealed that companies have recently ceased chartering tankers for Khark because of the Iraqi air raids and high insurance premiums. The chairman of the Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Company affirmed that Kuwaiti shipping will continue normal operations in the Gulf despite the recent attacks on Kuwaiti tankers, AFP reported.

A Tehran radio commentary held Iraq responsible for the attacks on the tankers, charging that the increase in such attacks reflects the "depth and expansion of military, security, and intelligence cooperation between Iraq and the United States" because, in view of the distance separating Iraq from the center of the Gulf, "it cannot carry out such dangerous moves without the help of the United States."

In another development, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry denounced the "tendentious" contents of a British Foreign Ministry statement on the attacks on shipping in the Gulf, asserting that the statement ignored the Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi vessels and intentionally disregarded the "unquestionable fact" that Iraq has always called for peace, security, and free navigation in the Gulf, INA noted. The British statement, reported by London PRESS ASSOCIATION, blamed both Iraq and Iran for the disruption of tanker traffic and stressed that freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz must be respected. Meanwhile, France appealed to "all parties concerned" for an end to hostilities in the Gulf while Japan completed preparations to receive an Arab delegation including the Iraqi foreign minister as part of a possible attempt to mediate in the conflict, according to AFP and KUNA.

Libya-Tunisia Relations

Tunisia withdrew its commissioner general in Libya, the highest ranking diplomat there, to protest the abduction of three Tunisian National Guard members by Libyan authorities and the "escalation of attacks" on Tunisia by the "official Libyan media," Tunis radio disclosed. The Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement carried by JANA expressing "extreme regret" over the decision, affirming that the action will not serve the Tunisian people.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, reported that the Cabinet studied the government policy statement presented by the drafting committee and agreed on its contents. The statement will be put in its "final form," and the Cabinet will "deal with it" on 19 May.

Reporting on incidents in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, Jerusalem radio said that two inhabitants were wounded when they resisted IDF forces attempting to search their houses. The soldiers subsequently discovered a "considerable" quantity of weapons, the radio claimed. AFP, citing witnesses at the camp, reported that 15 people were injured when IDF forces dynamited houses during a 5-hour operation in which 110 people were detained.

PLO Affairs

Syria has invited the Fatah Central Committee to send a delegation to Damascus, according to a "Palestinian source" cited by WAKH. The source indicated that the Syrian initiative was a result of Algerian-Yemeni mediation. In a separate development, participants in the Algiers intra-Palestinian meeting issued a statement denouncing Morocco for hosting a "Zionist" delegation at the recent Jewish congress in Rabat, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement described the Moroccan action as a "painful blow" to the Palestinian people and called for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to adopt measures to check this "serious development."

Israel

The first five candidates in the Labor Party's list for the Knesset elections, as published by *THE JERUSALEM POST*, are Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Navon, Yitzhaq Rabin, Hayim Bar-Lev, and Abba Eban.

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'Arafat Denounces 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Arens Tour

JN162040 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] An official Israeli source has stated that the Israeli defense minister made an inspection tour of Sidon, the Al-Awwali line, and An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon today. The Israeli defense minister's visit comes in the wake of last night's large-scale Israeli operation against the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp. The Israeli occupation forces destroyed several houses in the Palestinian camp and arrested a large number of its inhabitants after wounding some 15 inhabitants, including 4 who are in critical condition. The Lebanese radio mentioned that some were killed during the Israeli operation. In an exclusive statement to our radio, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat commented on the Israeli defense minister's tour by saying: By his tour today, the Israeli defense minister has revealed the baseness of the Army which sends its defense minister to enjoy the sight of Palestinian victims. However, this will not scare our people. It will make them even stronger and more determined.

Yasir 'Arafat added: This organized and official Israeli terrorism — supervised by the Israeli Government and the Israeli military command, and backed by Washington, or with its collusion — will not scare our people. Despite the aggression against 'Ayn al-Hulwah, they came out shouting slogans in praise of the PLO and the Palestinian revolution.

Other Factions Denounce 'Massacre'

JN162008 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 16 May (SANA) — The Palestinian revolution factions have pledged to the Lebanese and Palestinian masses that they will avenge the massacre that the Zionist forces carried out this morning against the inhabitants of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp which resulted in 60 victims killed or wounded. Fadl Shururu, secretary of the PFLP-GC Political Bureau and its official spokesman, stated that this massacre is the precursor of other attacks against the Lebanese and Palestinian people in southern Lebanon, as well as the prelude to a large-scale aggression against Syria. Fadl Shururu said that this massacre occurred in the wake of the annual conference of Moroccan Jews which convened in Arab Morocco. He added that the convocation of this conference has exposed those who are promoting capitulatory calls and negotiations with the Zionist enemy — namely, 'Arafat and his clique.

Abu Akram, member of the provisional command and official in charge of information in Fatah, warned against committing new massacres against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, stressing that the Palestinian revolutionaries' guns are not far from our people, wherever they may be. Abu Akram also pointed to the Moroccan king's step in hosting a Zionist delegation on the Arab land of Morocco and allowing it to attend the conference of Moroccan Jews, and to 'Arafat's recent statements that he is ready to recognize the Zionist enemy and negotiate with it. Jamil Hilal, secretary of central information of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, urged the Lebanese and Palestinian masses to pursue and escalate the struggle against the Zionist enemy and its oppressive measures.

Senegal's President Confers With 'Arafat in Tunis

AB160936 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0750 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] The president of the republic, on an official visit to Tunisia, yesterday received PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at his residence. The audience took place in the presence of Mr Moustapha Niasse, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs. At the end of the 45-minute audience, the leader of the Palestinian resistance told the press that the talks with the head of state mainly concerned bilateral issues between Senegal and the PLO and Afro-Arab cooperation. According to Yasir 'Arafat, it was an occasion for the two statesmen to review all important problems concerning Africa and the Arab world.

A few hours before receiving Mr 'Arafat, President Abdou Diouf recalled Senegal's stand on the Palestinian question in an address to the Tunisian parliament.

According to the head of state, a solution to the problem can only be reached through the implementation of the UN resolutions: Israel's evacuation from all territories occupied since June 1967; the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable rights of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state in their homeland under the auspices of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative; and, finally, the recognition and respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity and independence of all the states in the region and the right to live in peace within the confines of the recognized fixed borders. In this regard, he said, Israel's intransigence is the major obstacle to the achievement of peace in the region.

'Arafat Cited on Algiers Dialogue, PNC

JN161728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has emphasized that the dialogue that is currently taking place among the Palestinian leaderships, with faith in the freedom and independence of Palestinian decisionmaking, is continuing. He added that as soon as this dialogue ends, the PNC will meet in order to draw up the policy for future Palestinian action. Concerning the continuation of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, Abu 'Ammar said that this dialogue is one of the decisions adopted by the last PNC session. He emphasized that this dialogue is continuing in order to take a Palestinian-Jordanian action toward liberating Palestinian people in the occupied territory and achieving legitimate Palestinian rights. Concerning the escalation of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men's operations, Abu 'Ammar said that both the Palestinian and Lebanese people are currently waging the longest war of attrition against the enemy, both inside and outside occupied territories.

This came in press statements Abu 'Ammar made in Tunis, in which he called for action to help the Arab region regain its balance by uniting Arab ranks and using Arab potentials against the enemy. He affirmed that this objective will only be achieved by halting the Iraq-Iran war and by allowing Egypt to resume its natural role within the Arab nation.

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Gulf Shipping Crisis

The GCC Ministerial Council, in a statement carried by SPA, denounced Iranian air attacks against Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers. According to the statement, the Council decided to submit the matter to an emergency meeting of the Arab League and to the UN Security Council. Meanwhile, the Arab League secretary general condemned the Iranian attacks and once again called on Iran to come to the negotiating table, KUNA reported.

In a related development, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran delivered a note from the Kuwaiti Government to Iran protesting the attacks on Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf, while a Kuwaiti official summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires and informed him of the Kuwait's "displeasure" over the attacks, the agency disclosed.

Reacting to the recent developments, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio asserted that the war "imposed" by Iraq is causing a "total" lack of security in the Gulf region. The statement warned that lack of security for Iran's oil routes "shall be tantamount to insecurity for all the oil routes in the Persian Gulf."

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that Iran would not "sit and watch" the closure of its Gulf oil routes, IRNA reported. Iran must end the war with Iraq as soon as possible with a "large-scale and far-reaching operation," he added.

Meanwhile, Tehran radio charged that Iraq is carrying out its air raids with "direct U.S. support" and information supplied by AWACS aircraft. Moreover, "an Arab diplomat" in London cited by the radio alleged that Iraqi aircraft carried out the attack on the Saudi tanker using information supplied by the AWACS aircraft.

Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Iran would not allow Iraq to continue striking oil tankers carrying Iranian oil, claiming that Iran had the capability to "confront them," according to IRNA.

A military spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi fighters carried out a new air strike against two "large naval targets" south of Khark Island, scoring "direct, effective hits." The spokesman claimed the air strikes confirmed Iraq's ability to maintain the "siege" of Khark and the other Iranian ports in the Gulf.

Iran

Voting began in Tehran and 92 other constituencies in the second part of the Majlis elections, Tehran radio announced.

Libya

Anti-Libyan Terrorists — Some 150 Palestinians are being trained in Jordan for terrorist actions against Libyans, Libyan interests, and Libyan people's bureaus in Arab and European capitals, JANA alleged, citing "confirmed information."

UK, Sudan Threatened — Libya "might" retaliate against Britain and Sudan for their part in the attack in Tripoli, the head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Rome warned, according to ANSA. AFP quoted him as saying that Libya has the right to "neutralize" the anti-Libyan terrorist camps in Sudan.

Tunisia-Libya Relations

The Political Bureau of the Socialist Destourian Party discussed measures to counter "provocations" on the Libyan-Tunisian border, Tunis radio announced. According to "informed sources" cited by AFP, there have been exchanges of fire and a big troop buildup by both countries. The sources also claimed that Libya had carried out incursions into Tunisia.

Lebanon

'Ayn al-Hulwah Clash — A Palestinian woman was killed and a number of people were wounded by Israeli forces who opened fire on demonstrators in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp protesting a "massacre" of camp inhabitants by Israeli soldiers, Beirut radio alleged. The commander of the Israeli forces in the area denied the reports, claiming that a woman who died in the camp had been killed in "internal clashes," according to AFP. UN observers cited by Jerusalem radio denied that IDF soldiers were involved in the incident.

Relations With Iran — "Informed diplomatic sources" reported that preparations are under way for a resumption of relations between Lebanon and Iran, KUNA disclosed. The sources indicated that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry recalled the head of the mission representing Lebanese interests in Iran for consultations on the future of relations.

Israeli Withdrawal — Israel will not withdraw from southern Lebanon in the "near future," according to Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon Uri Lubrani as reported by Jerusalem radio. Lubrani remarked that Israel would continue to abide by the Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

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PLO Issues Statement on Refugee Camp Massacre

JN171743 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee issued the following statement on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah massacre: The PLO Executive Committee has investigated the new crime and massacre perpetrated by the Israeli forces and the forces of agent Antoine Lahad in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, near the city of Sidon in southern Lebanon yesterday, 16 May. Scores of innocent martyrs fell, many were wounded, and several houses, which had been rebuilt following the destruction of the camp during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982, were blown up. The PLO Executive Committee now holds the Israeli Government and Army responsible for this new massacre, in addition to the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, An-Nabatiyah, Tyre, Al-Burj ash-Shamali, Al-Miyah wa Miyah, and Ad-Damur in Lebanon.

The PLO appeals to the world's free and honorable people to confront this organized, fascist, official Zionist terrorism perpetrated by these Zionist gangs against our peaceful Palestinian people, against our children, women, and camps, and against the Lebanese people and their villages and cities. Urgent deterrent steps must be adopted to confront these continuing crimes and massacres against our people and masses. Moreover, the Executive Committee calls for the immediate convocation of the Security Council to discuss this new crime and adopt necessary measures to prevent a repetition of this crime, punish its perpetrators, and secure necessary guarantees to protect these camps and their inhabitants against these premeditated crimes and the continuing organized terrorism. At the same time, the PLO Executive Committee urges our Arab nation's masses to meet their responsibilities at this fateful and crucial time and in the face of this threat and these massacres against our Palestinian people and the dignity of our Arab nation. The Zionist enemy and the government of terrorists in Tel Aviv should realize that these crimes will not pass unpunished.

Algiers Meeting Communique Denounces Morocco

LD171118 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 17/05/84 (APS) — Following the holding in Rabat (Morocco) of the Zionist congress, the inter-Palestinian meeting which is taking place at the present time in Algiers between representatives of the Fatah movement, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian Communist Party, released yesterday a communique denouncing the approbation of the Moroccan official authorities and their accord to host the Zionist delegation which notably gathers several members of the Knesset and two former "ministers" to take part in a so-called "Council of the Israelite Communities of Morocco."

In this context, the communique particularly mentioned that "representatives of the Palestinian branches consider that this Moroccan measure constitutes a distressing coup to the Palestinian people which heroically fight against the racist Zionist occupation encouraged and backed up by the economic-military support of the U.S. imperialism.

"This Moroccan initiative, the communique added, is in a total contradiction with the Arab commitment concerning the Arabity of Palestine and constitutes a blatant deviation of decisions of different Arab summits as to Palestine.

"This initiative, the communique finally pointed out, opens also a breach in the Arab position hostile to Camp David accords and condemns As-Sadatian enterprise to recognize the racist and Zionist entity so as to normalize the relations at the detriment of the Palestinian people." The Palestinian representatives who participate to the inter-Palestinian meeting, the communique added, denounce this dangerous evolution of the Moroccan policy, an evolution which ranks with the U.S. plans aiming at undermining the Arab will in the struggle, at imposing the Zionist presence in the region, and at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

At the time when the Lebanese people succeed in abrogating the 17 May accord and when the Egyptian people are leading a struggle against the "normalization" and are exerting (?strong) pressure to put an end to diplomatic relations and annul Camp David accords, we can but express our astonishment before such an initiative while Morocco presides [over the] Al-Quds Committee and we exhort the Arab nation — peoples and states — to hamper the Zionist infiltration within the very Arab ranks. For this reason, we request from the conference of the Arab foreign affairs ministers, which will meet next Saturday, the necessary measures so as to stop this dangerous deterioration which aims at doing harm to the Arab question.

Meeting Resumed, Enlarged

LD171332 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 17/05/84 (APS) — The inter-Palestinian meeting resumed its works yesterday behind closed doors in Club des Pins (Algiers). The meeting was enlarged to bring in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) including Mr Abu 'Abbas, deputy secretary general, and Abu 'Ali. It is recalled that the participating delegations are that of the DFLP, PFLP, and the PCP. On another side, Mr M'hamed Yazid, CC member of the CC Permanent Secretariat in charge of the Council of Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples, offered a luncheon in honour of the Palestinian delegations and the delegation of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Jordan PLO Representative Criticizes Morocco Meeting

JN180948 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 May 84 pp 1, 19

[Nabil 'Amir dispatch]

[Excerpt] Brigadier 'Abd ar-Razzak al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan, has said that the Jewish conference that was held in Rabat is considered an action aimed at aborting the Fes summit conference and the resolutions it adopted on Arab Moroccan territory. In an exclusive statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, Al-Yahya said that convening the Jewish conference in Morocco is considered a stab at the resolutions adopted by the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by King

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

The Arab states are "astonished" that the United States has adopted the attitude of a "spectator" with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah asserted in remarks reported by KUNA. In another KUNA report, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir stressed that the Gulf waters are not territorial but international and that consequently he does not have the right to oppose "military intervention." The foreign minister said that, while he is not "concerned" about intervention by countries dependent on the Gulf, he cannot grant them bases in Kuwait. He also observed that the GCC countries, "especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," had agreed to consolidate their air defense systems to deter any further attack. Another Foreign Ministry official cited by the agency stressed that Kuwait will not seek U.S. assistance or protection, as it is determined to prevent the Gulf from being opened up to "international struggle."

Asked about possible U.S. air cover for tankers, Saudi Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani replied that "no one will invite the United States to come without thinking of the Soviet Union coming," AFP reported. He warned Iran that Saudi Arabia would defend itself if attacked.

In a separate development, during a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, an Arab League delegation urged Japan to "drastically reduce" imports of Iranian oil in order to cut off Iran's oil revenue and end the war, KYODO reported.

A Foreign Ministry announcement broadcast by Tehran radio criticized the final resolution issued by the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis for ignoring Iraq's "warmongering." The announcement stated that Iran will make every effort to maintain security and stability in the Gulf and that Iran opposes interference by "any foreign force" in the area. It also warned that if Iran is prevented from exporting its oil, no oil will be exported from the region.

Syria-ICO

Syria has decided to suspend its membership in the ICO's Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II because it regards the recent Jewish conference in Morocco attended by an Israeli delegation as a flagrant violation of ICO principles and of the aims for which the Jerusalem Committee was founded. The Syrian announcement, which was contained in a Foreign Ministry memorandum to the ICO secretary general broadcast by Damascus radio, added that Syria will boycott the committee's meetings "until the reasons which led to this suspension are removed" and urged other members of the committee to follow suit.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria and that, if circles in Syria want to heat up the atmosphere, they should realize Israel will not be dragged into any provocation, according to the transcript of Shamir's speech issued by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE. He warned that those in Israel who are hinting that there will be "something to talk about" with Jordan if and when they come to power are undermining Israel's interests.

Shamir reaffirmed his willingness to negotiate with any Arab country without preconditions or promises of concessions concerning sovereignty in "Eretz Yisra'el," adding that the Camp David accords are still the "only basis for negotiations."

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said in his Knesset speech that the Alignment does not insist on incorporating Jordan in negotiations based on the Camp David accords because the Jordanians did not participate in the deliberations which led to those agreements, Jerusalem radio reported.

Libya

Relations With Tunisia — Libya has decided to release three Tunisian border guards captured on 8 May, AFP reported citing sources in Tunis. The decision followed talks between Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid Essebsi that were held in an atmosphere of "complete frankness," according to Tunis radio.

Warning to U.S., UK — Libya's revolutionary committees are "in constant readiness to execute the death sentence and transfer the battle into these countries which feed terrorism," *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warned the United States and Britain in an editorial reported by JANA.

PLO Affairs

Leaders of Fatah dissidents, As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-General Command, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front have formed a "Palestinian National Alliance" and called for the establishment of a "joint body for national salvation" chaired by the PNC speaker and including those PLO Executive Committee members hostile to the "deviationist and capitulatory trend" represented by Yasir 'Arafat, Damascus television reported. The alliance's program condemned 'Arafat's leadership, calling for a collective PLO leadership that would escalate armed struggle against Israel and strengthen the strategic alliance with Syria.

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Yasir 'Arafat Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH
PM221500 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 May 84 pp 11-13

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Arafat Hijazi in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] I said: Let us begin with this visit. How far have the talks with King Husayn and the Jordanian Government progressed? The talks have been going on for for more than a year and a half and we are still hearing of further meetings to continue the talks. What point have you reached and when will the talks end?

['Arafat] We had talks in Jordan and reached an agreement after the early stages of the talks following our departure from Beirut. When I visit Jordan and meet the king or my brothers pay such visits, it does not mean that we are still continuing the talks. Rather there is a need for continuous meetings in order to coordinate and exchange views. A clear example of this is my present visit, which will end in a few hours' time, after which I will leave for China. I will take with me both the Jordanian views and the Palestinian views, which I will present to the Chinese leadership. In other words, I am representing Jordan just as I represent Palestine on this important mission to a state that has considerable weight and influence in international politics. I believe that everybody knows that King Husayn, with the PLO's authorization, also presented the Palestinian views during his visit to the United States and Britain. This is probably the best evidence of the fact that we have gone beyond the stage of talks and we are now in the stage of agreement and joint coordination.

[Hijazi] The return of parliamentary life to Jordan has created a new reality. There are 30 deputies in the Jordanian parliament representing the West Bank. Do those deputies represent the Palestinian people and participate in presenting its case?

['Arafat] I believe that some people have misinterpreted this development. Our ties with Jordan are based on mutual confidence and true brotherhood. On the basis of this mutual confidence and brotherhood we have been satisfied with Jordan's official statement on this matter — that the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan does not affect what was agreed in Rabat in 1974 regarding the PLO representation of the Palestinian people.

[Hijazi] If your relations with Jordan have reached this level of confidence, agreement, and coordination, there can be no doubt that your relations with most of the Arab countries are similar. But there remain three states which we have to discuss here. These are Saudi Arabia and its role in mediations, Syria and the disputes with it, and Egypt, whose return to the Arab ranks is the subject of conflicting views. Could you define your relations with these countries?

['Arafat] We in the PLO highly appreciate the mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia. Our relations with it are good and close, particularly with King Fahd, with whom we have constant consultations both during personal meetings and at Arab, Islamic, and international conferences.

[Hijazi] What about Syria?

['Arafat] I must recall here what I said at the ICO, which met in Casablanca following our departure from Tripoli. I said at the conference that the terrible conspiracy which Zionism is trying to implement, and which is its historical dream, is to divide the Arab ranks so that it is easy for it to establish sectarian states in Lebanon. What is happening in Lebanon should be a serious warning to our Arab nation. For this reason we believe that we should rise above the wounds. In any case the barriers that some people think exist between us and Syria are imaginary, because there is more than one channel connecting us with our Syrian brothers.

[Hijazi] What is new in your relations with Egypt following the uproar over your visit to Cairo and meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak?

['Arafat] Our relations with Egypt are based on national and patriotic principles. They are well considered, consistent, and not based on emotionalism. We should recall here David Ben Gurion's saying. He said: We should take Egypt out of the arena of conflict with the Arabs. As for the eastern area, we should divide it so as to make it easier to dominate it. It was in the light of our understanding of this strategic reality that we decided at the PNC to seek to work for the return of Egypt [to the Arab fold] and get closer to it as it distances itself from Camp David.

Anyone observing the important steps Egypt has taken since my visit to it, following my departure from Tripoli, will notice the positive and important steps President Husni Mubarak has taken in this direction, beginning with the closure of the Egyptian Consulate in Eilat, the adoption of a hard line on the question of Tabah, and the severance of relations with El Salvador for moving its embassy to Jerusalem.

Also President Husni Mubarak stood in the very place where As-Sadat signed the Camp David agreement and said in a speech while standing next to President Reagan that there will be no solution for the Palestinian problem without the PLO. He also agreed to host the conference on solidarity with the Palestinian people. And, last but not least, he took the initiative to end the Gulf war. We must realize and understand the significance of Egypt's stand at the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council, in which Egypt now represents the Arab group. We supported the idea that Egypt should represent the Arab group, despite objections from many sides.

[Hijazi] What about your relations with the Soviet Union?

['Arafat] Our relations with the Soviet Union are more than strong. The attitude of Brother Aliyev, the Soviet leadership's emissary who visited Damascus, was a real expression of the strength of Soviet-Palestinian ties. A mark of our appreciation of the Soviet Union's role was our acceptance of its mediation in clearing the air with Syria.

[Hijazi] Our real problem is with our real enemy, who is daily practicing terror against us and carrying out plans aimed at our existence. The discovery has been announced of a Zionist gang

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Gulf War

New Attacks on Shipping — The Iraqi Navy and Air Force destroyed six "naval targets" in an attack on an enemy convoy in the Khowr-e Musa area on 25 May, a military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, an Iranian plane severely damaged a Liberian tanker traveling outside Saudi territorial waters in the Gulf, according to a Saudi military source cited by Riyadh radio. While noting that a Saudi ship rushed to assist the tanker and save its crew, the spokesman denied that Saudi fighters gave chase to the attacking Iranian aircraft.

Iranian Policy, Syrian Diplomacy — Iran will leave Saudi Arabia alone provided the latter condemns the Iraqi regime's stand on the war and pulls itself "out of the scene of action," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared at a press conference reported by IRNA. He reaffirmed Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz if "they make it impossible for us to export our oil by the waterway," describing this as "no joke." He charged that the Iranian Air Force is as capable now as it was at the start of the war, even though sorties have to be minimized because of a lack of spare parts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders had earlier held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who stated before leaving Tehran that the two sides held "identical" positions on the need to prevent the expansion of the Gulf war, according to Tehran radio. Khaddam told Iranian officials that Syria continues to support Iran's stand over the war, the radio said.

Commenting on Khaddam's visit to Tehran, Iraqi "observers" predicted that the Syrians will be unable to persuade Iran to stop endangering the stability of the Gulf and stated that any Syrian assurances that Iran will not resume its attacks on oil tankers will meet with "ridicule," INA reported. The Iraqis accused Syria of "opportunistic" behavior aimed at safeguarding Iranian financial aid and oil supplies, citing in this regard the Majlis decision to offer Syria free or discounted oil and to reschedule Syrian debts. Sources close to OPEC had earlier disclosed that Syria is suffering a financial crisis because of the stoppage of Iranian oil supplies to Syrian refineries caused by the blockade of Khark Island, according to INA.

Lebanon

Israeli Air Raid — Israeli aircraft attacked a "terrorist" base near Barr Ilyas in the Al-Biqa' valley on 24 May, Jerusalem radio announced citing the IDF spokesman. All the planes returned safely to base and the pilots reported hits on the targets. Beirut radio said two people were killed and five others were wounded in the raid, which was directed against a PFLP-General Command position. Voice of Lebanon radio said Syrian forces fired SAM's at the Israeli planes.

Broadcasting — Information Minister Joseph Skaf will be assisted by a committee in the task of standardizing newscasts and programs, Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. No decision has yet been made to include the private information media in the system of unified newscasts, Minister of State for Southern Lebanon and Reconstruction Nabih Birri said in remarks broadcast by the radio.

Israel

Objections to Missile Sale — Israel informed the United States that it objects "in principle" to Stinger missiles being supplied to Saudi Arabia, Jerusalem radio reported. Israel's renewed opposition to the missile sale came after the U.S. Administration informed Israel of its intention to conclude the deal and requested that Israel "show understanding" of the move in light of the sensitive situation in the Gulf, according to the radio.

Jewish Underground — Two more suspects in the Jewish underground were charged by the state attorney's office, including a major from the Judaea and Samaria military administration, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Meanwhile, after being released on bail, Rabbi Moshe Levinger blamed government "inaction" for "all the latest events," IDF Radio reported.

Syria

Vice President Rif'at al-Asad will visit the Soviet Union at the end of May, Damascus radio and TASS disclosed.

Defense Minister Mustafa Talas highlighted Soviet support for Syria in an interview with Madrid's *EL PAIS*, asserting that plans exist for two Soviet airborne divisions to move to Damascus within 8 hours in the event of a new conflict between Syria and Israel. Talas also stated that all the arms in Syria are under his orders, including the SA-5 missiles.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, speaking at a press conference in Tunis reported by KUNA, criticized Syria's "negative" stance toward relations with Fatah and reaffirmed Fatah's rejection of Syrian attempts to force Yasir 'Arafat's dismissal from the PLO and Fatah leadership because this constitutes interference in PLO internal affairs. Khalaf said his recent talks with Soviet officials were important because PLO-Soviet relations had become "tepid" after 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. Soviet officials showed "complete understanding" for Fatah's stand on PLO unity and the need for a PNC meeting, Khalaf said, and promised to support the national unity dialogue within the PLO.

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'Arafat Comments on Talks With ICO's Chatti
JN241924 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Abu Dhabi from Jidda today within his tour of a number of the region's countries. Our correspondent said that Brother Abu 'Ammar will hold talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the latest developments in the situation in the Gulf and the latest developments in the Palestinian issue. Prior to his departure from Saudi Arabia, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that he had agreed with ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti on holding a preliminary meeting on Saturday at the ambassadorial level of the Islamic peace committee, which is commissioned to resolve the Iraq-Iran conflict. In a press statement, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that this preliminary meeting will be followed by an urgent meeting of the Islamic Good Offices Committee at the summit level in order to elect a new chairman for the committee following the death of the former chairman, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, with the aim of continuing the committee's endeavors to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that he discussed several issues with Chatti, foremost of which were the grave situation and important developments in the Iraq-Iran war [words indistinct] attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers, as well as the continuation of the war, which has escalated to a degree that threatens the entire region. Brother Abu 'Ammar said that he also discussed with Chatti the results of his recent talks with a number of Islamic leaders, particularly Bangladesh President Mohammad Hussain Ershad and Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He said that these talks focused on holding an emergency meeting of the Islamic Good Offices Committee to end the Iraq-Iran war and the progress of the Jerusalem committee's work, particularly with regard to the implementation of the resolutions of the committee's emergency session in Fes last month. They also discussed ways of following up these resolutions with regard to the possibility of transferring U.S. and other embassies to occupied Jerusalem, dangers threatening the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Judaization conspiracies against Jerusalem.

Salah Khalaf Blames Syria for Dialogue Failure
LD242032 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 24 May (KUNA) — A high-ranking Palestinian official in the Fatah movement has blamed Syria for the failure of the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue and reiterated the movement's readiness to normalize relations with Damascus "on one basic condition: that these relations should not be at the expense of our independent national decision making." The official, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, said this at a press conference he held here this afternoon. He said: "We have exerted great efforts for the sake of normalization of relations with Syria and we are still ready to do so, but on one basic condition: that these relations should not be at the expense of our independent national decision making."

"When the permanent secretary of the Algerian FLN party, Cherif Messaidia, went to Damascus on 16 May where he met the Syrian vice president, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'," Salah Khalaf added, "we sent with him the seven points that were agreed upon during the first meeting of the Palestine resistance detachments held in Algiers which dealt with the nature of the relations with Syria."

Salah Khalaf said that the Syrian officials informed Messaidia and members of his delegation that "they support the continuation of the Algiers dialogue. They also said that when the participants in the dialogue reach an agreement, then we will be prepared to have a dialogue with the Fatah Central Comittee." "Naturally," Khalaf said, "we considered such a reply as a negative one. Yet, we did not close the door on our part. We hope this wish is not unilateral." He added: "We heard that Syria put one condition for receiving the Central Committee, namely, that any Central Committee which attacks Brother Yasir 'Arafat will be received in Damascus. But we reject this, if it is true in part and whole. We do not permit any quarter to force us to dismiss or drop 'Arafat or anyone else for that matter, because this would be tantamount to interference in our internal affairs. Mr Khalaf confirmed that Soviet officials have stressed to the Fatah Central Committee delegation, which visited Moscow recently, that they are "optimistic about the results of the mediations which are carried out by the Soviet leadership and other sides with the Syrian leadership to establish a dialogue with Fatah."

The member of the Fatah Central Committee admitted that "the importance of the Moscow visit was that it came after Palestinian-Soviet relations became tepid to some extent. This was because the Soviet Union could not understand some of our political moves and the nature of these moves, or whether they represented a new political course, especially the visit which Brother Yasir 'Arafat made to Cairo." Mr Khalaf said: "The Soviets showed complete understanding for the Fatah stance concerning PLO unity and the need for holding the forthcoming PNC session. They promised to exert efforts with the Palestinian detachments with whom they have good relations in order to make the national unity dialogue succeed and to quicken its completion."

Replying to a question from KUNA, Mr Khalaf denied that these words of his are an indication that the past round of the Palestinian-Palestinian dialogue, which took place recently in Algiers between Fatah, DFLP, PFLP, PLF, and the Palestinian Communist Party, failed.

He said: "The past round of the Palestinian unity negotiations was very successful because the conferees reached written agreements about issues they investigated, including, for instance, relationswith Jordan, the situation in the Lebanese arena, political issues concerning the Reagan initiative and the Camp David Accords, and the commitment to the stage-by-stage political program of the PLO. They also agreed that all the new issues which might occur in the Palestinian arena should be presented to the PNC."

With regard to the tension between Tunisia and Libya, Salah Khalaf said that the "Fatah Central Committee delegation has asked the Soviet officials to intercede with Libya to put an end to the tension,for fear that it might develop into a regional Arab

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'Arafat Confers With Bahrain, UAE Leaders

JN251714 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah in Manama today. The radio correspondent said that the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Gulf region, the Palestinian issue, and the international arena. Our correspondent added that Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed the Bahraini amir on efforts that are being exerted to convene an emergency session of the Islamic Good Offices Committee in order to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, the Arab situation, the serious events resulting from the escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, and ways to quickly end this war.

'Arafat Addresses ICO Committee on Gulf War

LD261323 Riyadh SPA in English 1221 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Jidda May 26, SPA — The Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) Good Offices Committee began a preparatory meeting here today at an ambassadorial level. The meeting was attended by Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti and the ambassadors of Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Guinea, Senegal and Gambia accredited to the Kingdom. The meeting was addressed by 'Arafat who stressed the importance of the meeting in view of the dangerous situation in the region caused by serious escalations of the Iran-Iraq war which was threatening an international intervention in the region. 'Arafat said the Islamic and Arab nations were paying the costs of the war continuation. The Palestinian leader said the committee will hold a meeting at the heads of state level by the first week of June. The meeting was also addressed by Chatti, who also warned against serious developments in the region caused by the Iran-Iraq war, now in its fourth year.

Chatti said he had asked Iran and Iraq to fly to Tehran and Baghdad to discuss with the two sides means of avoiding the expansion of the war, but unfortunately he had not received an answer from Tehran yet. Meanwhile, 'Arafat, after today's meeting, appealed to Iran and Iraq on the occasion of the advent of holy Ramadan to stop fighting and put an end to bloodshed. Chatti said a new Palestinian initiative to reach an end to the war will be presented to the upcoming meeting. ICO groups 42 Moslem states and PLO.

San'a' VOP Reports 'Arafat-Fahd Meeting

GF271640 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 May 84

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Gulf and the Palestinian situation.

'Arafat Attends Algiers AAPSO Conference

Arrives in Algiers

GF271642 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 May 84

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Algiers today to deliver the Palestinian delegation's speech to the sixth conference of African and Asian People's Organization of Solidarity with Palestinian people which will begin later today. He will also hold talks with Algerian officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause.

Meets Algerian Officials

LD272148 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 May 84

[Excerpt] Work of the sixth Conference of AAPSO opened today at the Palace of Nations with the participation of delegations from member countries and international and regional organizations, including an important delegation representing the PLO. This morning Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, arrived in Algiers to take part in it. Also the Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee and of Fatah Central Committee, arrived. The brother leader met a number of Algerian officials, foremost Brother Mohammad Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee. Brother Abu 'Ammar is to address the conference.

Attends Opening of Conference

LD280058 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The sixth conference of AAPSO opened this afternoon at the Palace of Nations at the Pines Club under the supervision of Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of SWAPO, and Mohamed Abdelaziz, Polisario secretary general. About 100 delegations, representing African and Asian countries, political parties, a number of international and regional organizations, and representatives of national liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, are participating.

Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia spoke on the occasion. In the name of the Algerian political leadership, he delivered a greeting of fraternity and struggle to the participants. He said: We welcome you to Algeria, in whose liberation revolution you participated and you still are an asset of which the Algerian revolution is proud as it continues the battle for development.

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Gulf War

Khamene'i Remarks — Responding to "hostile activities" by some Gulf states against Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned that these states will experience "no violations" if they remain neutral but that they must not allow their bases, AWACS, port facilities, and shipping to be used by the Iraqis. Khamene'i, who was addressing military units in Bandar 'Abbas in a speech reported by Tehran radio, stressed that U.S. threats to provide modern weapons for use against Iran will not shake its "firm resolve," because people are more decisive than advanced weapons. If the Americans are prepared to "sink to the depths of Persian Gulf waters for nothing," then "let them come." After inspecting military units in Bandar 'Abbas, Khamene'i said in an interview with the radio that the Iranian Navy has made "excellent progress" in bringing its fighting power to an "acceptable level," adding that Iranian forces have received "the necessary orders" and "know what to do."

Diplomatic Developments — A Saudi information official cited by SPA denied a BBC report that Saudi Arabia has asked Iraq to halt attacks on Gulf shipping, asserting that the Kingdom has not requested anything of the kind from Iraq. Meanwhile, the paper *AL-ANBA'*, according to KUNA, said Kuwait's only option is to "turn to Baghdad" and increase support for Iraq, according to KUNA. Stressing that confrontation is preferable to submission, the paper indicated that Kuwait cannot rely on the United Nations, the GCC, or the Western powers.

In Tokyo the head of INA told newsmen that Japan could play an effective role as a mediator in the Iran-Iraq conflict, KYODO reported. Confirming that Japan intends to continue mediation efforts, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe disclosed that a Japanese envoy will leave for Tehran shortly, INA noted. The Iranian ambassador in Tokyo subsequently met with Abe to ask Japan to continue to purchase Iranian oil, according to KYODO.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah asserted in an *AL-QABAS* interview reported by KUNA that any amendments to the GCC draft UN resolution condemning Iranian attacks which delete the words "the aggressor" are unacceptable to its sponsors. The Iraqi paper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* declared that Iraq will reject any Security Council resolution that equates "peaceful Iraq with aggressor Iran," according to INA.

Iran-Bloc Relations

The Iranian prime minister held talks in Tehran with the visiting Czechoslovak minister of fuel and power, while the Iranian foreign minister met with the Bulgarian prime minister in Sofia, according to Tehran radio. Moscow's *PRAVDA* published a Tudeh Party statement castigating the Iranian regime for its mismanagement of internal affairs and for its "ominous conspiracy" against the Tudeh.

Egypt

In the 27 May People's Assembly elections, the NDP received 73 percent of the vote and won 391 of the 448 contested seats, while the New Al-Wafd Party took the remaining 57 seats with 15 percent of the vote, Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha disclosed in a news conference broadcast by Cairo radio. The minister noted that the three other parties contesting the elections did not reach the 8 percent threshold and consequently obtained no seats. He reported that 43 percent of registered voters cast ballots. Abu Basha rejected opposition criticism of the conduct of the elections, saying that such statements lacked "hard and fast evidence" and were meant to cast doubt on the fairness of the elections. He reported that incidents occurred in only 88 out of 22,000 election committees and attributed these to "quarrels and feuds."

A commentary in the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* reported by Cairo radio described the support given the NDP as an endorsement of President Husni Mubarak's domestic and foreign policies.

Syria

Vice President Rif'at al-Asad met with Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Tikhonov and Candidate Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Boris Ponomarev, TASS reported. The two sides discussed Soviet-Syrian relations, the Middle East situation, and other international "problems." Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', who is also a member of the visiting Syrian delegation, held talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Gromyko, TASS reported.

Lebanon

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, the minister of state for southern affairs and reconstruction, discussed political developments and reform of the Lebanese Army during a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, Beirut radio reported. Birri said the talks were positive with an identity of viewpoints.

An adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied that Israel intends to close the mission in Ad-Dubayyah, asserting that the Israeli representation is necessary for holding contacts that will lead to security arrangements in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. This announcement conflicted with an earlier report by the radio that Israeli "personalities at the most senior political level" were advising the unilateral closure of the office near Beirut.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the DFLP has reopened an office in West Beirut.

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'Arafat Said Ready To Negotiate With Israel

AU291728 [Editorial Report] Vienna *KURIER* in German on 26 May on page 5 carries a 1,400-word Heinz Nussbauer report on an interview given to him by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in his villa in Tunis, date not given, as well as interviews given to him by other Arab leaders. Nussbaumer, after describing his trip, says that "punctually at the agreed upon minute 'Arafat sits down at the roundtable and says something which he has never said before with such clarity. He is ready for direct negotiations with Israel — preferably under the protection of the United Nations. And he adds: 'I want a just peace which knows no victor and no vanquished.' And — with a clear reference to the forthcoming Israeli elections in July — 'I am addressing this challenge to all Israelis: Will they decide in favor of peace? My candidate is peace.' Nussbauer then reviews 'Arafat's political career and speculates whether he will ever again have a chance to assert his peace course in the PLO. The Arab capitals are filled to the brim with speculation as to what will prevail in the end: the awareness of the shortcomings of the PLO chief or of his strong points." After quoting statements about 'Arafat made by various PLO and other Arab politicians, Nussbaumer concludes that "Yasir 'Arafat is once more facing fateful days. A strange alliance, from the Soviet Union to Saudi Arabia, wants him to stay on. All the attempts to build up an opponent to him have failed. There still exists only one controversial, hated, emphatically symbolic figure for the dream of the Palestinian state — Yasir 'Arafat."

'Arafat Interviewed on PLO Dispute, Iran-Iraq War

LD291118 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 29 (KUNA) — The PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has refuted the presence of inter-Palestinian differences saying that various opinions in the Palestinian arena reflect the democratic spirit of the revolution. 'Arafat, in an interview with the local daily *AN-ANBA'* published here Tuesday, underlined that those who circulate reports on Palestinian disputes ignore the democratic process of the revolution. The Palestinian leader described the dialogue among Palestinian organizations in Algiers and Aden as a preliminary step to the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC), parliament in exile. He pointed out that the PNC session usually takes between 10 and 12 days which are not enough to cover all national issues and added that preliminary talks are necessary to save a lot of time during the council meetings. Asked on repeated postponements of the PNC session, 'Arafat said "We respond to our brothers in other organizations who request adjournment of that meeting until all issues are discussed."

The Palestinian meetings group representatives of the mainstream commando movement, Fatah, in talks with those of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party.

'Arafat said that the Soviet, Saudi, Algerian and Yemeni mediation between the PLO and Syria were still progressing. Asked why the organization did not condemn Iran following the air strikes against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, 'Arafat replied "How can I do so while I am a mediator in the Gulf war?" He reiterated, however, that any aggression against any Arab land is an aggression against the Palestinian revolution and emphasized that "the brothers in Iran understand that stand." The chairman highlighted, meanwhile, that his initiative tabled through the Islamic Conference Organization's goodwill mission was practical but refused to elaborate on its details.

The Palestinian leader described the Iraq-Iran war as a "crisis" and charged that failure of all bids to end the fighting indicates that a conspiracy was engineered and pointed out to the American fleets roaming nearby. Asked on his unclear stance toward the Jewish Congress in Morocco, 'Arafat expressed hopes that newsmen would pay such concern to "Arab leaders or those who (?kill) Palestinian and Lebanese commandos or those who help non-Arab nations against Arab countries". He said, however, that the Arab foreign ministers have agreed to refer the issue to the forthcoming Arab summit.

Khalil al-Wazir on 'Arafat's Jordan Visit

JN270730 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 84 pp 1, 19

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has denied news agency reports citing an Arab newspaper that the PLO headquarters will definitely be moved from the Arab League building in Tunis. Abu Jihad said that no decision has been made in this regard. He added that is possible to rent one of the Arab League offices in Cairo for one of the Palestinian revolution's institutions.

On PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, Abu Jihad said that it was aimed at continuing the Palestinian-Jordanian joint talks and at bolstering cooperation and joint action by the PLO and Jordan to serve the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. On the meetings of the Central Committee [of the Fatah movement], Abu Jihad said that the Central Committee will meet on 30 May to discuss several Arab and Palestinian issues.

Al-Wazir on Deaths of Palestinian Hijackers

NC291240 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpt] Amman, May 29 (AFP) — The deaths of two Palestinian bus hijackers at the hands of Israeli forces were ordered by the Israeli defense minister and the Army chief of staff, Deputy Commander of Palestinian Forces Abu Jihad charged today. Abu Jihad, a nom de guerre for Khalil al-Wazir, was commenting on an Israeli commission of [words indistinct] that two of four Palestinians who hijacked an Israeli bus last month died from beatings administered after their capture. Abu Jihad said: "There was no need for an investigation" to know that the deaths had been ordered from above. But the commission, whose findings were released yesterday, said no order had been given by superiors to kill the two captives. Palestinian combatants would continue to face "Zionist terrorism" with courage, Abu Jihad said, adding the killings would not prevent further Palestinian actions.

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